(d) if so, the total funds allotted, progress of work as on 15.11.98 with estimated amount spent so far and when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The route from Mandi to Pathankot *via* Kangra is National Highway No. 20.

(c) and (d) The development of National Highway network is a continuous process. Funds for the development of National Highways are allocated State-wise for the entire length of National Highways within the State. Specific National Highway-wise allocation is not made.

National Highway Board

1842. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed National Highway Board to be set up alongwith its main functions;

(b) whether Government are aware of the poor upkeep and maintenance of the National Highway in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Board will undertake the maintenance of National Highways and also check occurrence of accidents; and

(d) the funds sanctioned by Government for development of National Highways in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENBRA PRADHAN): (a) and (c) Rakesh Mohan Committee recommended the constitution of a Road Board to streamline the work of the Highway Sector. However, the proposals are at conceptual stage;

(b) All National Highways in Gujarat are being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(d) During the year 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 50.00 crores has been earmarked for development of National Highways in Gujarat.

Navigable Inland Water Routes

1843. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of navigable inland water routes in terms of kilometers in the country;

(b) the utilisation of this navigable capacity in each of the years since 1990-91; and

(c) the State-wise distribution of the navigable capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENBRA PRADHAN): (a) According to National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) report (1980) the length of navigable waterways in the country is 14,544 kilometers. This includes all waterways navigable by country boats.

(b) Utilisation of national waterways since 1990-91 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below)

Besides these, waterways in various states are also being utilised locally for navigation by mechanised/non-mechanised vessels.

(c) The statewise distribution of navigable waterways as per NTPC report is given in the Statement-II.